



# school bulletin

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 9, 2015

## Rotary Raises \$45,000 for Literacy Efforts

Long Beach Rotary recently raised \$45,000 for its Reading by 9 literacy efforts, an all-time record for the service club, which has raised more than \$470,000 for literacy programs over the past 16 years.

By the end of the school year, Rotary will have donated more than 215,000 books to local children, school libraries and non-profit literacy programs in the Long Beach area. The goal is to increase the percentage of students reading at grade level by age nine.

About \$30,000 of this year's funds were raised in just a few minutes at a recent Rotary meeting, with the remainder coming from matching funds from the Rotary Charitable Foundation and private foundations.

Reading by 9 provides books and other support to local preschool and K-3 students, schools, libraries and literacy programs. This

year's programs include the club's traditional Scholastic book grants of \$2,000 to seven Long Beach Unified School District elementary schools, resulting in nearly 1,000 books going to each school. Over the years, Rotary has awarded at least two grants to every LBUSD elementary school.

The funds also will provide: \$2,000 each to three LBUSD elementary schools to purchase award winning "Best of Series" books for their libraries; \$7,000 for the purchase of Scholastic books for LBUSD's Child Development Center preschool programs (including giving a book to each of the CDC's approximately 2,000 children; electronic books for the e-book pilot program initiated with four elementary schools two years ago; up to \$5,000 in grants to local nonprofit literacy or book

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## Ten More Teachers Nationally Certified

Ten more teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District have earned the highest professional distinction in teaching, National Board Certification.

The newest certificates bring the total number of nationally certified teachers in the school district to 158. The rigorous certification is a year-long process that involves submitting portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and participating in a day of written exercises. The school district supports teachers who are interested in applying for National Board Certification by offering pre-candidacy and candidacy programs throughout the application process.

(Continued on next page)

## CCEJ Event to Focus on Mental Health

The California Conference for Equality and Justice, which partners with the Long Beach Unified School District on the Building Bridges Human Relations Camps and other youth programs, will welcome mental health advocate Kevin Hines as keynote speaker at the 24th Annual Interfaith and Intercultural Breakfast. The event is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19 at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center.

Kevin Hines is a global speaker, author and mental health advocate who reaches audiences with his story of an unlikely survival and his strong will to live. Two years after he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder (at 19 years of age), he attempted to take his own life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. He is one of only 34 (less than 1 percent) to survive the fall.

He has earned numerous accolades, including a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work as a suicide prevention advocate and speaker by the National Council of Behavioral Health.

The nonprofit CCEJ is a human relations organization dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry and racism in America.

The event is \$40 per person, with table sponsorships available. Call 435-8184 or email [kmcilquham@cacej.org](mailto:kmcilquham@cacej.org) to reserve a space by Feb. 9.

## Times Notes Stability, Progress in LBUSD

An article in this week's Los Angeles Times notes the stability of leadership in the Long Beach Unified School District, especially when compared to other large, urban school districts.

The Jan. 7 piece, "An insider or outsider as next head of L.A. Unified?" says that nationwide, urban superintendents have not lasted long.

"In 1999, their average tenure was 2.3 years, according to surveys conducted by the Council of the Great City Schools. By 2010, it had risen to 3.6 years, with observers calling for greater stability. It's now 3.2 years," Times writer Howard Blume observed.

"Bucking that trend locally is Long Beach Unified, with two superintendents – Carl Cohn and Christopher J. Steinhauser – over the last 22 years and a reputation for steady progress and less confrontational labor-management relations."

## Celebrate Education

The annual Education Celebration, which provides information on local elementary, middle and K-8 school programs, is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 24 at McBride High School.

Meet principals and teachers, and learn about enrollment options.

Contact Sharon Lazo-Nakamoto at 997-8307 for more information.

The annual event is part of the school district's School Choice program, which this year also included a popular series of high school choice fairs. Those events, held last fall, attracted thousands of families and drew standing-room-only crowds.

## Coffee Canceled

The Coffee with Chris meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 27 has been canceled. The next meeting is 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24 in the Gompers K-8 School Library. The meetings are held to encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. View the schedule of meetings under Coffee with Chris in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

**FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE –** Jordan High School students visit a McCarthy Construction site at Chapman College. The trip was sponsored by McCarthy and the Laborers' Union. A new class is opening at Jordan, creating a pipeline to an apprenticeship with the union.



## • Rotary Donation

(Continued from first page) programs; books for all children attending the four Kindergarten Festivals offered by LBUSD; books for children at Rotary Centennial Park programs and other Rotary projects; and \$6,500 in Teacher Literacy Grants to be awarded to creative and innovative classroom literacy projects initiated by K-3 teachers.

"The Teacher Literacy Grants were a big success last year, and we are increasing the total funding from \$5,000 to at least \$6,500 this year," said Rotarian Frank Newell, a local attorney and Poly High School alum who has supported Reading by 9 for many years.

Applications for the teacher grants will be available in the coming weeks.

Learn more at [rotarylongbeach.org](http://rotarylongbeach.org).

**EARLY LITERACY** – Rotarian and Long Beach Poly High School alum Frank Newell reads with preschoolers at the Central Child Development Center. Rotary raised a record \$45,000 for early literacy programs this year, surpassing \$470,000 over the past 16 years. The effort has grown in recent years, providing e-books and grants.



## Jordan Gains New Job Training Partner

Big Saver Foods on Artesia Boulevard and Orange Avenue in North Long Beach is providing Jordan High School/Jordan Plus students with on-the-job training in the supermarket industry. Big Saver is the latest local business or community organization to join the Long Beach Unified School District's Youth Employment Network (YEN), a business partnership program that helps bridge the gap between education and employment.

"I'm impressed with how eager these young students are to work at the store," said Big Saver Store Manager Sergio Rangel. "We're pleased to be able to help local youth by giving them a chance to develop their job skills."

Students are learning about bagging groceries, stocking, baking and how to talk to customers. YEN students receive pre-employment skills training through on-the-job experience, college and technical trade school exploration, resume writing and other services that help them find and retain employment.

For more information about the Jordan/Jordan Plus YEN business partnership program, contact Dawn Ide, career transition specialist at Jordan, 984-3710, ext. 2066.

## Submit Forms for Retirements, Leaves

According to Article VIII, "Transfers," in the K-12 Teachers Agreement between the Long Beach Unified School District and the Teachers Association of Long Beach, "to facilitate the staffing process, employees are expected to make known their leave, resignation or retirement requests by March 1."

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2015-16 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator.

Leave of absence request, resignation and retirement forms are available from site secretaries or at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Human Resource Services – Current Employees.

Recent California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) legislation limits retirees from substituting during the first 180 days of retirement. Contact CalSTRS at [calstrs.com](http://calstrs.com) for more information.

## Kindergarten Fest

The second of four Kindergarten Festivals for incoming 2015-16 kindergartners and their families is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, Jan. 10 at International Elementary School, 700 Locust Ave., Long Beach. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m.

The popular festivals include parent workshops, free school supplies, dental screenings and lots of fun activities.

The remaining festivals will be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 21 at Burcham Elementary School and March 14 at Roosevelt Elementary School. Call 435-4080, ext. 19 for more information.

## • Nationally Certified

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New National Board Certified teachers are Karen Emerson-Roberts, Cleveland; Kim Floto, Poly; Lisa Hartman, Newcomb; Stephanie Marie Heilig, Stanford; Ted Hollister, Wilson; Susan Hunt, Jordan; Kimberly Loprieato, Gant; Sondra McNair, Jordan; Belkis Miqueleiz, Lincoln; and Kimberly Stubblefield, Stephens.

National Board Certification is valid for ten years. Teachers can renew their certification by completing a portfolio to demonstrate professional growth.

Four LBUSD teachers here renewed their national certification: Nina Jackson, Franklin/Tincher; Ashley Lindstrom, Garfield; Jim Laub, Washington; and Lisa Ulmer, OCIPD.

Learn more under National Certification in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## Names in the News

Nutrition Services Supervisor **Lacretia Palmer** of Washington Middle School has published "Billy the Bully," a book about a kid who takes other children's lunches.

"I remember this form of bullying taking place when I was a child," Palmer said. "I believe speaking on this issue will contribute to making the world a better place."

Book readings are planned for schools and Long Beach Public Libraries. The book was scheduled for release on Jan. 6 and is available at [mascotbooks.com](http://mascotbooks.com).

**TOY DRIVE** – The student council at Hill Classical Middle School raised funds and donated more than \$1,800 worth of toys. Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, left, accepted the toys at LBUSD headquarters, where employees also donated toys. All of the toys were delivered to Miller Children's Hospital for the holidays.



### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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